PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
200 Maryland Ave. NE.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

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FEB 4 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Hoover:

With respect to ballistic identification of a bullet cartridge case fitting the rifle found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building on November 22, 1963, Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling's report dated November 30, 1963, at pages 162-164 sets forth in part the following information:

"Specimens:

"Q1 Bullet from stretcher ...
"Q2 Bullet fragment from front seat cushion
"Q3 Bullet fragment from beside front seat ...
"Q4 Metal fragment from the President's head
"Q5 Metal fragment from the President's head
"Q6 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case from building
"Q7 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case from building
"Q8 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case from rifle ...
"K1 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, with telescope sight No. C 2 766 ...

"Results of Examinations:

"The bullet, Q1, is a 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano rifle bullet . . . It consists of a copper alloy jacket with a lead core.

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"Speciman Q2 is a portion of a core of a rifle bullet . . . Speciman Q3 is a portion of the base section of a copper alloy core bullet . . .

"The rifle K1 is a 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano Italian military rifle model 91/38. Test bullets were fired from this rifle for comparison with Q1, Q2 and Q3. As a result, Q1, Q2 and Q3 were identified as having been fired from the submitted rifle.

"Specimen Q6 and Q7 are 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge cases. . . .

"Test cartridge cases obtained from the submitted rifle were compared with specimen Q6 and Q7. As a result, specimen Q6 and Q7 were identified as having been fired in this rifle."

With respect to the same rifle the report of Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling dated December 10, 1963, at pages 333-334 in part states:

"Q48 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case from building.

"Results of Examination: . . .

"Q48 is a 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano cartridge case . . . The cartridge case Q48 was compared with test cartridge cases fired in the K1 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, serial No. C2 766. As a result Q48 was identified as having been fired in this rifle."

With respect to the revolver taken from Lee Harvey Oswald at the time of his arrest on November 22, 1963, Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling's report dated November 30, 1963, at page 162 states in part:

"K3 .38 Special Smith and Wesson revolver, serial # V510210, assembly # 65248."

In addition, Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling's report dated December 10, 1963, at page 351, in part, states:

"Specimens received:

"Q74 - Q77 four .38 special cartridge cases . . .

"Results of Examination:

"The four cartridge cases Q74 - Q77 were compared with test cartridge cases obtained from the previously submitted revolver K3. As a result, Q74 - Q77 were all identified as having been fired in K3."

It would be greatly appreciated if your laboratory would describe in some detail the evidentiary facts upon which the above-quoted ultimate conclusions are based with respect to the respective connection between the bullet, the cartridge and the cartridge cases and the corresponding weapon. I assume -- but would like to be advised if the contrary be the fact -- that no conclusion can be drawn relating Q4 and Q5, the metal fragments from the President's head, with either weapon.

I appreciate your continuing cooperation in the work of this Commission.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel